

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of ~~using a functional beverage to treat or prevent hyperlipidemia or gallbladder/liver disorders~~ reducing triglyceride levels in an individual in need thereof, comprising administering to said individual a functional beverage, wherein the functional beverage ~~contains~~ comprises 1 mg to 30 mg/100 ml of at least one kind catechin selected from the group consisting of epigallocatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, epicatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, epigallocatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, gallocatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, catechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, catechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, gallocatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, and ~~isomers~~ stereoisomers thereof, wherein said catechins are derived from tea leaves of at least one selected from the group consisting of “Benifuuki”, “Benifuji”, “Benihomare”, “Yaeo”, “Surugawase”, “Yutakamidori”, “Kanayamidori”, “Okumusashi”, “Seishin-taipan”, “Seishin-oolong”, “Ohba-oolong”, “Benibana”, “Benihikari”, “Yamakai”, “Yamamidori”, “Karabeni”, “Koushun”, “Souhuu”, “Okumidori” Benifuuki, Benifuji, Benihomare, Yaeo, Surugawase, Yutakamidori, Kanayamidori, Okumusashi, Seishin-taipan, Seishin-oolong, Ohba-oolong, Benibana, Benihikari, Yamakai, Yamamidori, Karabeni, Koushun, Souhuu, Okumidori and mixtures thereof.

2. (Currently amended) The ~~functional beverage~~ method according to claim 1, wherein the functional beverage is produced by extracting tea leaves.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) The ~~functional beverage~~ method according to claim 1, wherein the functional beverage is labeled to be effective for at least one of suppressing allergic rhinitis and effective for improving hyperlipidemia and gallbladder/liver function.

6. (Currently amended) A method of ~~using a composition to treat or prevent hyperlipidemia or gallbladder/liver disorders~~ reducing triglyceride levels in an individual in need thereof, comprising administering to said individual a ~~wherein the composition contains~~ comprising an a-constitutive effective amount of at least one kind of active ingredient catechin

selected from the group consisting of epigallocatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, epicatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, epigallocatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, gallocatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, catechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, catechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, gallocatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, and isomers stereoisomers thereof, wherein said catechins are derived from tea leaves of at least one selected from the group consisting of ~~"Benifuuki", "Benifuji", "Benihomare", "Yacho", "Surugawase", "Yutakamidori", "Kanayamidori", "Okumusashi", "Seishin-taipan", "Seishin-oolong", "Ohba-oolong", "Benibana", "Benihikari", "Yamakai", "Yamamidori", "Karabeni", "Koushun", "Souhuhu", "Okumidori"~~ Benifuuki, Benifuji, Benihomare, Yacho, Surugawase, Yutakamidori, Kanayamidori, Okumusashi, Seishin-taipan, Seishin-oolong, Ohba-oolong, Benibana, Benihikari, Yamakai, Yamamidori, Karabeni, Koushun, Souhuhu, Okumidori and mixtures thereof.

7. (Currently amended) The ~~composition~~ method according to claim 6, wherein the composition is a food/beverage, internal medicine, liniment, nose wash, nose drops, cosmetic or eye drops.